

RAPID CITY AREA SCHOOLS INSTRUCTIONAL STANDARDS

The instructional standards listed below represent the knowledge and skills we believe our instructional program should emphasize. We believe the program must address all of the areas detailed below if we are to provide our students a comprehensive education. It is expected that students will apply and transfer the knowledge and skills gained in any one category to the challenges presented in any other.

1. Our instructional program should promote student mastery of an essential core of knowledge:
 - a. Students should be taught core competencies and key concepts in the subject areas of: language arts, mathematics, science, history and technology.
 - b. Students should be provided an awareness of and be encouraged to develop an appreciation for major issues and themes in the social sciences, the arts and humanities.
 - c. Students should be assisted in building connections and establishing interrelationships between the various disciplines of learning.
2. Our instructional program should emphasize problem-solving skills:
 - a. Students should be taught to organize, summarize and interpret data.
 - b. Students should be taught to make sound judgments, distinguishing fact from opinion.
 - c. Students should be taught to generate creative solutions to problems.
 - d. Students should be taught to use technology as a tool to access information.
3. Our instructional program should emphasize the acquisition of excellent communication skills:
 - a. Students should be taught to read and write effectively and to do so for both general information and for recreation.
 - b. Students should be taught to read technical information.

- c. Students should be taught to speak clearly and to explain themselves effectively.
 - d. Students should be taught to listen critically.
 - e. Students should be encouraged to recognize that the arts are another form of human communication.
4. Our instructional program should emphasize the development of citizenship skills:
- a. Students should be taught how government operates at the community, state and national levels.
 - b. Students should be exposed to the wide variety of community and world cultures in which different governments operate.
5. Our instructional program should also emphasize the development of career and technical and employment skills:
- a. Students should be taught a core of career and technical trade skills: the uses of hand tools, safety in the workplace, and the basic knowledge of production, technology and information systems.
 - b. Students should be taught career and technical skills: how to follow directions, the importance of timeliness, and the importance of demonstrating initiative.
 - c. Students should be exposed to the responsibilities associated with the variety of roles required in the workplace: team member, leader, facilitator and independent worker.
6. Our students should be taught to plan and secure their future career:
- a. Students should be taught about the different career and technical opportunities available to them: entrepreneur, business and trade occupations, and professional occupations.
 - b. Students should be taught to identify appropriate career options.
 - c. Students should be assisted in developing entrepreneurial and job seeking skills.
 - d. Students should be made aware of skills that enable one to keep a job.

7. Our students should be taught the skills necessary to maintain a healthy body:
 - a. Students should be taught health and safety skills.
 - b. Students should be provided opportunities to learn basic skills in a number of common sports programs.
 - c. Students should be encouraged to participate in lifetime physical activities.

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